



Charlotte Mason's House of Education,
Scale How, Ambleside, UK, 2009

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Seeing Rheims and other important cathedrals first by moonlight, has taught me that outline is the really important feature round which the others gather. I think it would be a help to us in the building up of our spiritual nature if we could dwell more on the great outline of our common heritage as "made in the image of God," leaving all details of individual temperament and personal gifts in God's hands, with the humble yet passionate entreaty, "Thy hands have made me and fashioned me, give me understanding that my soul may live."

I am glad to have news to give you of our long expected certificate. Mr. Wilson most kindly promises it for this autumn. I like to think that besides giving us a lovely allegory of the child's development, it may, by spiritual interpretation, teach us some of the true conditions of receptivity as applied to the trainers themselves.

I hope I may receive a photo of all this year's students to place with those of other years, and that there may be no gap in my history, of 1895.

I hope, too, that those students with whom I am unable to make personal acquaintance, will reciprocate my feeling of hearty interest and true regard, and look upon me as a friend-in-trust, until such time as I may have the opportunity of knowing them personally.

With all best wishes and warmest expressions of regard,

I am, my dear Students,

Yours in very earnest sympathy,

F. DALLAS YORK.

House of Education Natural History Club.—Notes by M. L. Hodgson.

We have received a very creditable list of June flowers from the nature note-book of Ethel Irwin. Judging by this list we find Newbliss, Ireland, very little in advance of our own lake district. On Saturday, July 6th, some of our party much enjoyed a botanical ramble over Loughrigg, with Mr. Rooper. Some very interesting plants were examined. The bog asphodel is in perfection, and so is the yellow mountain saxifrage.

Brush-Drawing. By Mrs. Steinthal and Miss Leach (Constable & Sons, 5s.) Ex-students, members of the "Parents' Review" School and other friends, will be delighted to know that Mrs. Steinthal's Course of Brush-Drawing has appeared. Perhaps most readers of the *Parents' Review* have been inspired by Mrs. Steinthal's lectures on Brush-Drawing, and will rejoice to have a definite course of lessons from her hand and that of Miss Leach. We entreat our readers to use the notes in the hand-book (which are full of artistic feeling) with the Course. For example, rushes and grasses,—“These are hints and not copies. A few long grasses pinned on the paper,” etc. The squares, please observe, are described as “a necessary evil in large classes,” and should not be introduced in the home schoolroom. We hope all our readers will get the Course.

THE “P.R.” LETTER BAG.

[The Editor is not responsible for the opinions of Correspondents.]

DEAR EDITOR,—I know you like to hear how P.R.S. work goes on. We have not missed one day this term and do so enjoy our work together. History has been delightful. D. was the child of a R.C. and V. the daughter of a Protestant, and both lived in the reign of Charles II. One was in London during the Plague and the other during the Fire. The father of one helped Titus Oates and, of the other, found the body of Sir E. Godfrey. Local colouring was studied, and during the term they have written eight letters to each other describing their adventures and lives. The reign seemed alive to them and the letters are really very good. As we soon mastered the eight tales in Judges, I have read Longfellow each morning and made them explain each verse. We first took Wayside Tales, which they illustrated, and parts of the Golden Legend as the scene is laid in the Black Forest. V. asked what saved Elsie. “Oh,” said the small P. “it was because Prince Henry was sorry for her.” So he got at the heart.

E. S.

DEAR EDITOR,—I have read with great pleasure the very interesting “Notes of a Lesson on Arithmetic,” by Miss Beale, in the June number, and I have no doubt that many readers besides myself must have found them both stimulating and suggestive. It appears to me, however, that the writer has somewhat exaggerated the difficulty of calculating by means of the Roman numerals. It will, I think, from the under-noted examples be evident that though these numerals are certainly cumbrous to handle, they yet lend themselves, with all their drawbacks, to a certain clearness and simplicity of working.

XIX times LX·IV·
X·IX·

XXXVI
·XC·
CCCC
DC·XL·

MCCXVI

MDCCLXXIV divided by XXIV

XX·IV·) MDCCLXX·IV· (LXXIII^{XXII}
M CC^{XXIV}

D LXX
CCCCLXXX

·XC·
·XL·VIII

·XL·II ·IV·
XX ·IV·

XXII

In the foregoing examples the acquirement by memory of the various simple combinations of the numbers, I, IV, V, IX, X, L, C, D, M, in addition, subtraction and multiplication, is all that is pre-supposed, but is more probable that the full tables up to X were used by the Romans.

H.B.

DEAR EDITOR,—Our Union is growing apace, new branches spring up everywhere, our work is being crowned with success. Yet there is, perhaps, a danger of the Union being considered a society for furnishing lectures to parents, or for teaching children certain school subjects. With so many branches it is difficult for lecturers to be found on special P.N.E.U. lines, and sometimes members may forget that there are certain lines of thought and action on which we work. It seems to me that there is a greater success, a higher crowning of our work and teaching, to which many a mother's heart can testify—the influence of P.N.E.U. teaching on the children themselves. Parents are ambitious for their children, many new fields of knowledge and of culture are accessible now, we are all eager to bring them within our children's reach. Science is daily teaching us how to feed, how to clothe, and how to teach our children. It also shows us how we can make or mar them as men and women. But these last scientific truths are not preached from every house-top as are the doctrines of "all wool clothing," and of "boiled milk." It is "The Parents' National Educational Union" and its literature which have brought home to so many of us the all importance of habit formation and how it is to be done. It is therefore in all gratitude and humility that I ask leave to bring my own experience before your readers.

I married very young, I was devoted to school work and book learning. Of course I knew nothing of child training, for the profession of motherhood I was utterly untrained. I loved my children and tried to do my duty. I knew nothing of nature-lore, of hand-work, of physiology, of domestic management. I studied all these subjects, every thinking woman must perforce learn their importance. It is in the air. My children were well developed, interested, alive, happy in this country life—but spoilt. I felt my own inclination not to punish was supported by the modern tendencies all round. The pendulum was swinging from the over harshness of the former generation, but P.N.E.U. alone opened my eyes to what was to take the place of punishment. My little girl was nine—I read that all good habits must be formed before that age. She was obstinate, disobedient, high-spirited, in a couple of years she would be absolutely beyond control. I took fright. I tried severity and punishments only to feel that I was increasing the evils. She was strong-minded enough to deliberately choose and weigh the present course against the consequent punishment. I next tried to form good habits without her knowing it, to avoid scenes, to let her be good tempered for days together; but I had not gained her will on my side, she constantly relapsed. I think the difficulty with us mothers is to find just that first impression which will start the good habits. At last I took her into my confidence. I explained to her the whole scientific basis of the formation of habit. I showed her

how she could *make* herself, her brain, *grow* right or wrong. She was young to understand it, and I doubt if the course were wise for many children of nine, but it succeeded. It is now six weeks and she has not let herself go *once*. She has not cried or sulked once, but has been absolutely good, happy and bright for forty-two days, and I trust, with watchfulness on our part, that the habits are now formed. The tenacity of purpose should augur well for her future, whilst it makes one aghast at the thought of what it might have been if unchecked. Others *may* have learnt such lessons elsewhere, or gained the knowledge *instinctively*. I am proud to own that I derived it solely from P.N.E.U. teaching, and I trust my daughter will live to echo the feelings of

A GRATEFUL P.N.E.U. MOTHER.

DEAR EDITOR,—Can any of your P. R. readers supply me with those lovely children's verses which begin, "God make my life a little light"?

EDITH VENABLES,
S. Bernard's Lodge, S. Leonard's-on-Sea.

No letters containing advertisements are admissible in the "Letter Bag." The Editor receives an immense number of these and begs that the writers will receive this as an explanation of the fact that such letters do not appear.

P.N.E.U. NOTES.

Edited by HENRY PERRIN, *Hon. Org. Sec.* 8, Carlton Hill, N.W.

To whom Hon. Local Secs. are requested to send reports.

Chairman of Committee: Dr. A. T. Schofield. *Vice-Chairman:* Algernon C. P. Coote, Esq., M.A. *Hon. Org. Sec.:* Henry Perrin, Esq. *Secretary:* Miss Paterson. Pamphlets giving full particulars of the work of the Union, and the *Parents' Review* (6d. monthly), the organ of the Society, may be obtained from the Secretary, 28, Victoria Street, S.W., to whom all subscriptions and communications should be sent.

BELGRAVIA BRANCH.—*Sec.:* Miss Paterson, 28, Victoria Street, S.W. *Hon. Treas.:* Mrs. Hallam Murray. All members who have borrowed books from the library are particularly requested to return them at once.

HYDE PARK AND BAYSWATER BRANCH.—*Hon. Sec.:* Mrs. E. L. Franklin, 9, Pembridge Gardens, W. The next session will open on October 22nd with an address by Miss Mason, at 12, Kensington Palace Gardens, at 8.30 (by kind permission of Lady Montagu). French lessons on the Gouin method by a French lady, and German by the same method by a German lady will be given to children, commencing the end of September. Also Brush-Drawing and Cardboard Slöyd by an ex-student of the House of Education. Members wishing their children to join are asked to write to Mrs. Franklin as soon as possible. A reading circle will be started in the first week of October. "Home Education" and other educational and psychological books will be read. It will be free to all P.N.E.U. members, who it is hoped will avail themselves of this opportunity for definite study, combined with the advantage of free discussion and interchange of thought.

CLAPHAM BRANCH.—*Hon. Sec.*: Miss E. Bloxam, 29, Northside, Clapham Common. A Drawing-room meeting was held on Saturday, June 29th, at 4 p.m., at Elm House, 29, Northside, Clapham Common, by kind invitation of Miss Penfold. Mr. Penfold read a most interesting paper on "The Care of the Teeth: a neglected phase of our children's well-being." An unusual number of questions were asked at the close of the lecture, showing great interest in the subject. The lecture, which was illustrated by excellent diagrams and models, appears in this month's *Parents' Review*. Dr. Roe kindly occupied the chair.

A Reading Circle was held by Mrs. Bideleux, at 27, Cedars Road, on July 1st, and a lecture was given at the above address on July 13th, by Dr. Downes, on "Some radical defects in our modern education," Mr. Penfold in the chair. There will be no meetings during the month of August.

DULWICH BRANCH.—*Hon. Sec.*: Mrs. G. C. Whiteley, The Chestnuts, Dulwich Common, S.E. *Hon. Treas.*: Mrs. Gordon Milligan, 58, Herne Hill, S.E. The first meeting of this branch since its formation on April 1st was held at Belair, Dulwich, by kind invitation of Mr. and Mrs. Evan Spicer, on Tuesday, June 25th, at 4.30 p.m. More than 80 people responded to the invitation to hear Miss Charlotte Mason give an inaugural address on the objects and advantages of this Society. Her speech was most interesting and suggestive, and will spur on the promoters of this branch to make it effective and wide-spreading. Twenty-three new members were enrolled after the meeting, bringing up the full number to forty-three. Two parents are reckoned as one member in this total, as the subscription includes both father and mother.

SOUTHDOWN BRANCH.—

Brighton Centre.—*Hon. Sec.*: Mrs. William Borrer, Pakyns Manor, Hurstpierpoint.

Eastbourne Centre.—*Hon. Sec.*: Mrs. G. F. Butt, Ingleside, Selwyn Road. Following the suggestions made by Miss Webb, M.B., in her lecture to mothers,—"A plea for the teaching of Botany,"—arrangements are being made for the study of Elementary (physiological) Botany (free) to members. The *Hon. Sec.* will be glad to receive the names of any who are interested in the subject. The next session will commence in October, and lectures have been kindly promised by the following gentlemen and others. "The Teaching of Natural Science in connection with Geography," George Home, Esq. "The Value of Music as a Factor in Education," Geo. Langley, Esq. "The Correlation of Mental and Physical Education," Charles Roberts, Esq. (*Vide* article in July *Contemporary Review*: "Physiology of Recreation.") "The Growth of the Bones and the Deformities incidental thereto," by E. Muirhead Little, Esq., F.R.C.S.

Hastings and St. Leonard's Centre.—*Hon. Sec.*: Mrs. Edward Venables, S. Bernard's Lodge, London Road, S. Leonards.

Natural History Club.—It is hoped that all members and other readers of the *Parents' Review*, and their children, will make collections of pressed flowers, shells, fossils, etc., for the annual exhibition, to be held in November. Particulars from the Secretary.

THE PARENTS' REVIEW

A MONTHLY MAGAZINE
OF HOME-TRAINING AND CULTURE.

"Education is an atmosphere, a discipline, a life."

THE COST OF CHEAP SUCCESS.

BY MARY EVEREST BOOLE.

ONE of the good results to be hoped from a union of parents of different social ranks, is that certain evil modes of making children non-troublesome, which are practised by many poor women on their own babes, and by nurses on those of their employers, will have a chance of being properly ventilated. That infants are drugged in order to keep them "well-behaved" out of doors, is, I fear, too certain; and other mischievous devices are resorted to for similar purposes. I do not, however, propose to write an essay on the mere fostering of physical vices by the poor for the sake of convenience. I wish to call attention to certain convenient spiritual vices which are fostered by parents in the cultured classes, for convenience. I have often had occasion to observe that no girls are more spiritually astray, more undisciplined morally, more un-alive to the idea of duty, more unprepared for a dutiful life, than some whose mothers say of them,— "She is the best of my children; she has never given me any trouble; she has never disobeyed me." Obedience in children is so convenient to the parents that there is a temptation to rest satisfied with having procured it, and not to ask oneself too critically on what one's apparent success has depended. Many children can be made absolutely obedient, by ways which have no relation either to fear of